

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW LIZARD OF THE GENUS  
*ACANTHODACTYLUS* FROM MESOPOTAMIA.

BY

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*Acanthodactylus fraseri*, sp. n.

Habit rather slender, body moderately depressed. Head  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{2}{3}$  times as long as broad, its length  $3\frac{1}{5}$  or 4 times in length to vent, its depth equal to the distance between the centre of the eye and the tympanum; a lanceolate concavity from the frontonasal to the middle of the frontal; snout obtusely pointed,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as the portocular part of the head, with rather sharp canthus and scarcely concave loreal region; nasals feebly swollen. Pileus twice as long as broad. Neck narrower than the head. The hind limb reaches the collar; foot  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{3}$  times as long as the head; fourth toe, from the base of the fifth, as long as the head. Tail  $1\frac{2}{3}$  times as long as head and body.

Upper head-shields convex, smooth or slightly rugose. Suture between the nasals  $\frac{1}{4}$  the length of the frontonasal, which is a little broader than long and broader than the internarial space; præfrontals a little longer than broad, forming an extensive median suture; frontal shorter than its distance from the end of the snout,  $1\frac{2}{3}$  to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  times as long as broad, rounded in front, narrow behind; parietals as long as broad or slightly broader than long, outer border concave. 3 or 4 large supraoculars, first shorter than second, fourth small or replaced by granules; 5 or 6 superciliaries, first longest and in contact with the first supraocular, the others separated from the supraoculars by a series of granules. Anterior loreal shorter than second; 4 upper labials to below the centre of the eye, the fourth the longest; subocular sharply keeled below the eye and forming an angle wedged in between the fourth and fifth upper labials. A strongly keeled upper temporal, followed by one or two smaller shields; temporal scales granular, smooth, upper very small, lower large; a narrow tympanic shield; 4 pointed scales forming a denticulation in front of the ear-opening.

5 pairs of chin-shields, the 3 first in contact in the middle. 28 or 29 imbricate gular scales in a straight line between the symphysis of the chin-shields and the median collar-plate, enlarged towards the collar. Collar free, curved, composed of 10 or 11 plates.

Scales granular and smooth or feebly keeled on the nape, rhombic

and strongly keeled on the body, larger and imbricate towards the tail, a little smaller on the sides; 48 to 50 scales across the middle of the body, 18 to 20 in a transverse series between the hind limbs. Ventral plates tessellated, forming angular transverse series, as long as broad or slightly broader than long; 29 or 30 transverse series, the longest containing 16 plates. Præanal plate small and irregular in the female; male with a median series of 3 transversely enlarged plates.

18 to 23 femoral pores on each side, the two series narrowly separated in the middle. Fingers feebly serrated, with 4 series of scales; toes more strongly serrated, especially on the outer side of the fourth, the denticles of which are a little shorter than the diameter of the toe: 19 to 23 strongly uncarinate lamellæ under the fourth toe.

Upper caudal scales much larger than the posterior dorsals, oblique, obtusely pointed, strongly and diagonally keeled, the basals nearly as long as broad, lower feebly keeled, smooth in the basal part; 28 or 30 scales in the fourth whorl.

Greyish above, with four longitudinal series of darker spots on the back and a rather indistinct darker network on the body, white beneath.

|                                      | ♂   | ♀   |         |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| From end of snout to vent .....      | 73  | 60  | millim. |
| "    "    "    "    " fore limb..... | 29  | 22  |         |
| Head.....                            | 19  | 15  |         |
| Width of head .....                  | 13  | 9   |         |
| Depth of head .....                  | 9   | 7   |         |
| Fore limb .....                      | 24  | 20  |         |
| Hind limb.....                       | 41  | 32  |         |
| Foot .....                           | 22  | 18  |         |
| Tail .....                           | ... | 102 |         |

Two specimens, male and female, were obtained by Capt. F. C. Fraser, I.M.S., at Zobeir, Shaiba, Lower Mesopotamia, and presented by him to the Bombay Natural History Society.

In proportion and general appearance this species resembles *A. savignyi*, Aud. (*vaillanti*, Lataste), but it differs from it in having four series of scales round the fingers, as in *A. cantoris*, Gthr., *scutellatus*, Aud., and *grandis*, Blgr., and the ventral plates not forming longitudinal series. In the latter character it agrees with *A. scutellatus*, which differ in the acutely pointed snout and the stronger pectination of the toes.